



Mauritius Examinations Syndicate

HSC PRO

HSC Professional

Information Booklet



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HSC Professional Qualification

HSC Pro – What is it?

The HSC Professional Qualification (HSC Pro) is an alternative qualification to the traditional HSC. It provides a pathway to those students who, after their School Certificate, are looking for a course of study more geared to the world of work, while still keeping open the option of going for tertiary studies.

Students choosing this pathway will opt for syllabuses which have an applied learning dimension to them. They will also spend time in the workplace, carrying out supervised work placements. For the piloting, the project will focus on the ICT sector, but it is going to be extended to other sectors of the economy as well (tourism, agro-industry etc...)

Why the HSC Pro?

The HSC Pro seeks to provide an alternative pathway to students who do not see in the current HSC a viable pathway to the world of work. It will also suit the needs of students who are seeking a different approach to their learning. The HSC Pro will equip students with the skills they require to enter the world of work or go for higher education.

The HSC Pro will also address the mismatch which exists between the skills required by labour market and those with which HSC students leave school. The HSC Pro seeks to close this gap by drawing on industry expertise to finalise course contents while remaining alert to the requirements of the job market.

What are the key distinctive features of the HSC Pro?

There are three major distinctive features of the HSC Pro:

- The OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical IT Syllabus

This forms part of a range of syllabuses developed with a focus on ‘applied learning’. It is equivalent to an A level and is designed to prepare learners for the world of work. The content will be taught and assessed both in the classroom and during the work placements. This syllabus is not assessed through end of year examinations but through the production of an e–portfolio.

- The AS Global Perspectives (8030)

At AS level, HSC Pro students will not study the General Paper but the AS Global Perspectives syllabus (8030). This syllabus aims at encouraging young people to think about and explore issues of global significance. It will also provide the opportunity for learners to reflect on their professional experience and develop skills relevant to the workplace. Apart from the important analytical and critical skills which this syllabus seeks to develop in students, it will also serve as proof of students’ English language proficiency. Table 1 details the assessment scheme for the AS-Level Global Perspectives (8030) syllabus.

- The Work Placement Component

Inbuilt in the HSC Pro curriculum is a structured and supervised work placement component. Students will spend time in industry, with a workplace supervisor monitoring their development at all stages.

Table 1 –Assessment Scheme for the AS-Level Global Perspectives Syllabus

Paper	Description	Weighting
1	<p>Written paper consists of compulsory questions based on sources provided with the paper.</p> <p>Candidates will be required to analyse and evaluate arguments, interrogate evidence and compare perspectives centred on global issues listed in the syllabus</p>	30%
2	<p>Essay based on an issue they have identified in the sector in which their work placement company lies.</p> <p>The essay will be based on research and include specific reference to their work placement company. Word limit – 2500 words</p>	40%
3	<p>Presentation – research based on pre-released source materials provided for Global Perspectives, which for the pilot will include material relevant to the sector in which the candidates’ work placements lie.</p> <p>10 minute presentation addressing contrasting perspectives</p>	30%

What is the structure of the HSC Pro?

The course structure of the HSC Pro is made up of the following main components:

- 2 or 3 A levels (including , the OCR Cambridge International Technical in IT)
- 2 or 3 AS levels (including the mandatory AS Global Perspectives)
- The Work Placement

Table 2 illustrates the structure of the HSC Pro.

Table 2 – Structure of the HSC Pro

HSC Professional		
Number of Subjects	A total of five subjects	
	Either	Or
Main Subjects	2 A Levels + OCR Cambridge Technical in IT	1 A Level + OCR Cambridge Technical in IT
Compulsory Subsidiary Subject	AS Global Perspectives (8030)	AS Global Perspectives (8030)
Other Subsidiary Subjects	1 AS Level subject	2 AS Level subjects

The Pilot Phase

The pilot of the project is scheduled for 2015. It will focus on the ICT Sector, given the rapid development of this sector of the Mauritian economy and its ability to cater for high school graduates.

For the piloting, the syllabuses have been adapted to suit the local context and the requirements of the HSC Pro.

12 schools with a total of about 250 students will form part of the pilot.

Following a nationwide survey carried out by the MES and the MoE&HR, a total of 12 schools (both state and public) have been selected to participate in the pilot. Each school will have at least one class of HSC Pro students. The pilot schools are enlisted in Table 3 and are geographically represented in Fig. 1.

Table 3 – The Pilot Schools

ZONE	STATE SCHOOL	PRIVATE SCHOOL
1	Goodlands SSS (Boys)	Universal College
	Rabindranath Tagore State School	
2	Manilall Doctor SSS	New Educational College
3	Sookdeo Bissoondoyal SSS	Keats College
		Loreto College Mahebourg
4	MGSS Solferino	St. Mary's West College
	Belle-Rose SSS	
5	Le Chou College (Rodrigues)	

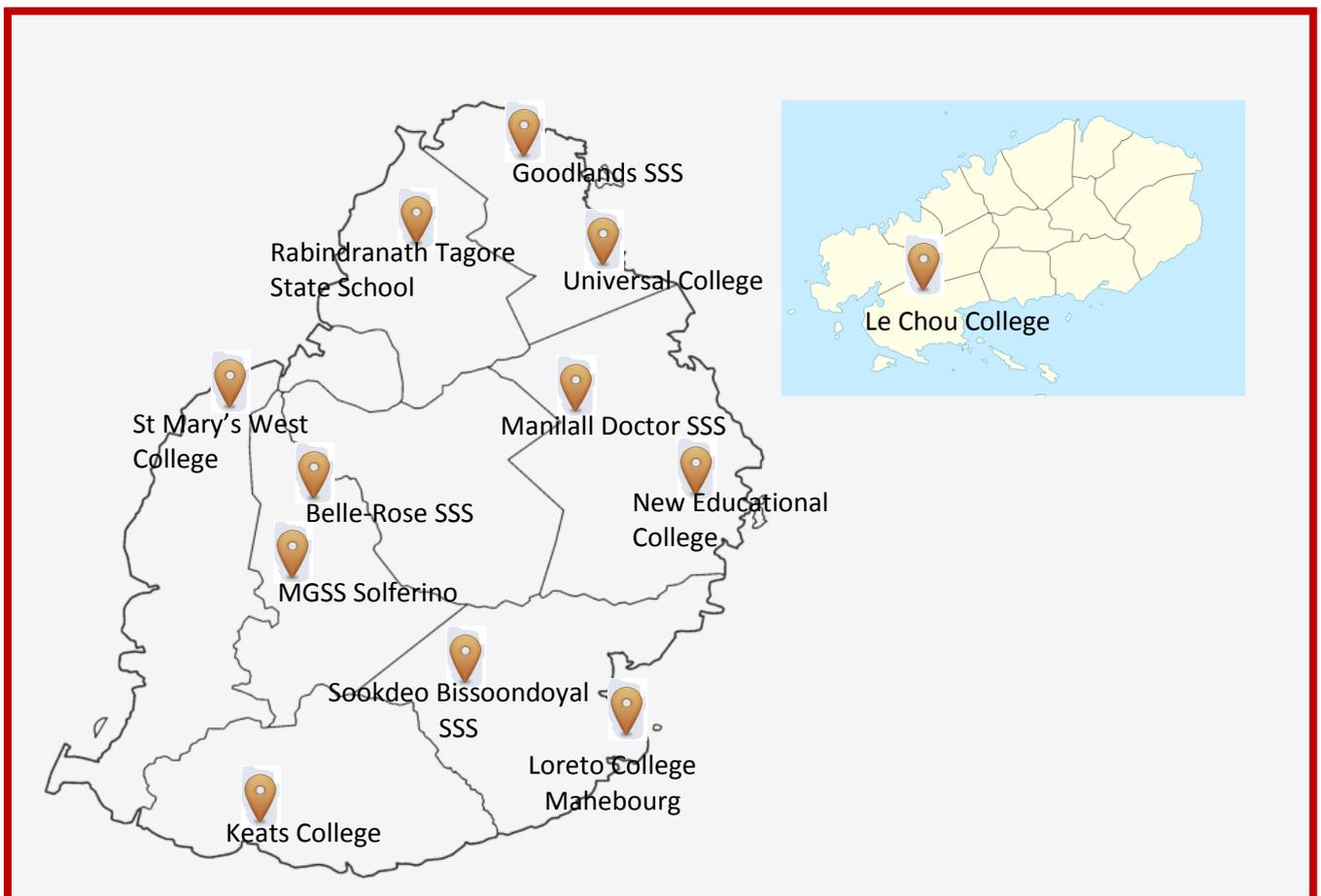


Figure 1 – Geographical location of the pilot schools

The Partners

The HSC Pro Qualification has benefitted from the input of many collaborators. Cambridge International Examinations and its sister organisation, OCR (Oxford, Cambridge and the Royal Society of Arts) have been very active in developing the Cambridge International Technical Syllabuses and ensuring they get recognition.

At the local level, the Ministry, the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development, the Human Resource Development Council, the Joint Economic Council and the ICT industry have been key collaborators in the implementation of the project. Local universities have also played an important role.

What are the benefits of the HSC Pro to the students?

The main benefits of the HSC Pro to the students are that they will be readily employable while still having the possibility of going for further studies. The benefits will also be to:

- a. develop students' interest in furthering their education and, in so doing, encourage a greater number of students to move up to HSC;
- b. offer greater chances of success since the programme is more flexible and caters for different learning styles;
- c. offer greater educational relevance and motivation;
- d. provide the opportunity for students to develop enjoyment for studies and/or culture of learning;
- e. provide students with a deeper understanding of work place requirements so that they can relate theory to practice;
- f. make students more self-efficient. Learners become aware of the impact they may have in the workplace and/or community at large;
- g. ensure the acquisition of problem-solving skills, ability to work in a team and planning abilities.

FAQs

- Can students opting for the HSC Pro compete for laureateship?

Students who opt for the HSC Pro will not be able to compete for the same scheme of scholarship offered by the government. However, they will be eligible for other schemes that will benefit students, both in terms of employment and further studies.

- Can students opting for the HSC Pro go to university?

The syllabuses within the HSC Pro qualification are recognised by both local and overseas universities and students will be able to seek admission in these universities.

- What are the prerequisites for a student to join the HSC Pro?

The prerequisites are the same as for HSC.

- Will the HSC Pro and the traditional HSC be at the same level in the National qualification framework?

Yes they will be! The syllabuses within the HSC Pro are already on the same level as A and AS level syllabuses on the Universities and Colleges Admission Service (UCAS) grid.